

# Dr M touched by people's support

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BAGAN SERAI, Sun. — Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said he was overwhelmed by the support given by the people of Perak during his half-day visit today.

He said the tremendous response augured well for the Barisan Nasional in the coming general election.

Some 20,000 people comprising Umno members, BN component party members, private sector employees and Government servants attended a gathering in support of Dr Mahathir and the BN.

The Bagan Serai parliamentary seat is held by Semangat 46 information chief Datuk Zainal Abidin Zin.

In fact the reception he has had throughout his nation-wide tour to look into preparations by Umno for the coming general elec-

tion has been very encouraging for Umno and BN, Dr Mahathir said.

He told a Press conference at the end of his visit that he would complete his tour of the States with visits to Malacca and Kedah shortly in his capacity as Umno president.

He would begin his nation-wide unity tour as Barisan Nasional leader beginning in Kelantan on Thursday.

Dr Mahathir said during the tour, he has been stressing to Umno members on the need to ensure solidarity to face the general election.

"The party is supreme. Umno members must put aside individual interests."

Earlier addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister reminded the people that the general election is not to show sentiments toward individuals

but to elect a strong Government.

A strong Government, he said, is essential for peace and stability.

The BN has achieved all this and would continue to step up development for the benefit of the people.

The people cannot take stability and peace for granted, he said adding that the opposition would not be able to achieve what the BN has over the past 33 years.

Dr Mahathir also met State Umno and Bagan Serai divisional and branch leaders at a close-door session at the Majlis Daerah multi-sports complex hall here.

Also present were Menteri Besar Tan Sri Ramli Ngah Talib, Information Minister Datuk Mohamad Rahmat and Cabinet Ministers from Perak.